

Sub C3 14. (newly added) The method of Claim 1 wherein the nutritional composition comprises about  $10^7$  to about  $10^{11}$  cfu/ml of *lactobacilli*.

15. (newly added) The method of Claim 11 wherein the nutritional composition facilitates the absorption of minerals selected from the group consisting of calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc or combinations thereof.

16. (newly added) The method of Claim 11 wherein the nutritional composition comprises milk proteins.

17. (newly added) The method of Claim 16 wherein the nutritional composition comprises an infant formula including hypo-allergenic milk protein hydrolysates.

18. (newly added) The method of Claim 11 wherein the nutritional composition comprises prebiotic fibers.

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A Sub C4 19. (newly added) A method for increasing absorption of minerals from a diet comprising the steps of enterally administering to a mammal a nutritional composition comprising *lactobacilli*.

20. (newly added) The method of Claim 19 wherein the minerals comprise calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc or combinations thereof.

Sub C5 21. (newly added) The method of Claim 19 wherein the *lactobacilli* comprises a *Lactobacillus* bacteria capable of adhering to intestinal cells.

22. (newly added) The method of Claim 21 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria comprises a *Lactobacillus johnsonii* CNCM I-1225 strain.

23. (newly added) A method for improving the absorption of minerals in a mammal comprising the steps of enterally administering to the mammal a nutritional composition comprising *lactobacilli*.